Middlebury

**International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)**
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# Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Newsletter

**Spring 2016 - A Note from ISSS; Important Dates; Upcoming Events; FIS Story Corner**

## A Note from ISSS

Spring is here and our thoughts go to our international students who will return home or make other plans in the U.S. for the summer. We are also very excited for our upcoming graduates who are inviting family members from around the globe to Commencement and making the most of their final semester here at Middlebury. We hope you are able to enjoy the beautiful days ahead with your students before they take flight to pursue their summer plans, post-graduate education or careers in other parts of the world.

If you are interested in hosting a new student this fall please contact us. We will be having our FIS information meetings this spring and summer and we welcome you and interested friends and family to join us. Our first FIS Host Program information meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 11, from 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. in the ISSS Lounge, 2nd floor, Service Building**. New hosts are invited to attend an information meeting before they participate in the program and we encourage our veteran hosts to come to a meeting as well. Host stories and insights are vital to new FIS friends who are trying to decide if they would be a good fit for the program. To register for the meeting (or to let us know of your interest in the program for Fall 2016), please e-mail our office at isss@middlebury.edu or call (802) 443-5858. We will hold additional information meetings throughout the summer, dates to be announced.

## Important Dates

### Exam Period

The spring examination period begins on Thursday, May 19 and ends on Tuesday, May 24. It can be a very stressful time for students so we encourage hosts to reach out to their students to say hello and let them know that you're thinking of them and available to provide support. Inviting your student to your home for dinner or even just meeting for ice cream is a wonderful way to connect and allow them a chance to get off campus and relax for a bit.

### Commencement

The Middlebury College commencement ceremony will be held outdoors on Sunday, May 29 at 10 a.m. on the College Lawn, located below Mead Chapel near Munroe and Voter Halls. The ceremony is open to everyone; no tickets are required. In the case of severe weather, the ceremony will be indoors at Peterson Family Athletics Complex. For detailed information and updates regarding weather, please visit the College's Commencement website at: http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/events/commencement .

**Summer Break**
Summer for students begins on Wednesday, May 25. If possible, check-in with your student before the break begins. You may find out he/she is staying in Vermont over the break giving you more time to plan summer outings. Helpful year-end advice can be found at:
http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/residentiallife/housingdeadlines/end_yr

**Upcoming Local Events**
Here are some upcoming spring events you may enjoy…

**2016 Middlebury Bach Festival**
**April 29-May 1, Friday-Sunday**
The 6th annual festival features the Middlebury Bach choir, period baroque instruments, concerts and other activities.
http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/music/bachfest

**Senior Thesis Dance Concert**
**May 6-7, Friday-Saturday, Dance Theater, Mahaney Center for the Arts**
This performance features an exploration of a variety of disciplines, including studio art, Chinese, sociology and anthropology through the magic of dance.
http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/dance/events/performances/node/505901

**Senior Week Choir Concert**
**May 27, Friday, Robison Hall, Mahaney Center for the Arts**
This annual concert by the Middlebury College Choir features favorite songs of the Class of 2016.
http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/music/Ensembles/collegechoir

**Senior Studio Art Thesis Exhibition**
**May 16, Monday (through May 26), Johnson Memorial Building**
This exhibit showcases the independent studio art of advanced students.
http://www.middlebury.edu/events/calendar_of_events

**The Curious Cousins of Vermont Outsider Artist Gayleen Aiken**
**April 20-May 21, Sheldon Museum, Park Street, Middlebury**
This is a wonderful exhibit of mixed media art featuring cousins that the artist imagined having when she was growing up in Barre, Vermont. A quirky, fun display that is sure to please!
http://henrysheldonmuseum.org/

Find other exhibitions, performances and events at the College by clicking on the following links:

- The College Calendar: http://www.middlebury.edu/events
- Middlebury College Museum of Art: http://museum.middlebury.edu/
- Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs: http://www.middlebury.edu/international/rcga/events
- Addison County Chamber of Commerce: http://business.addi soncounty.com/events
- Burlington happenings: http://www.sevendaysvt.com/

## FIS Story Corner

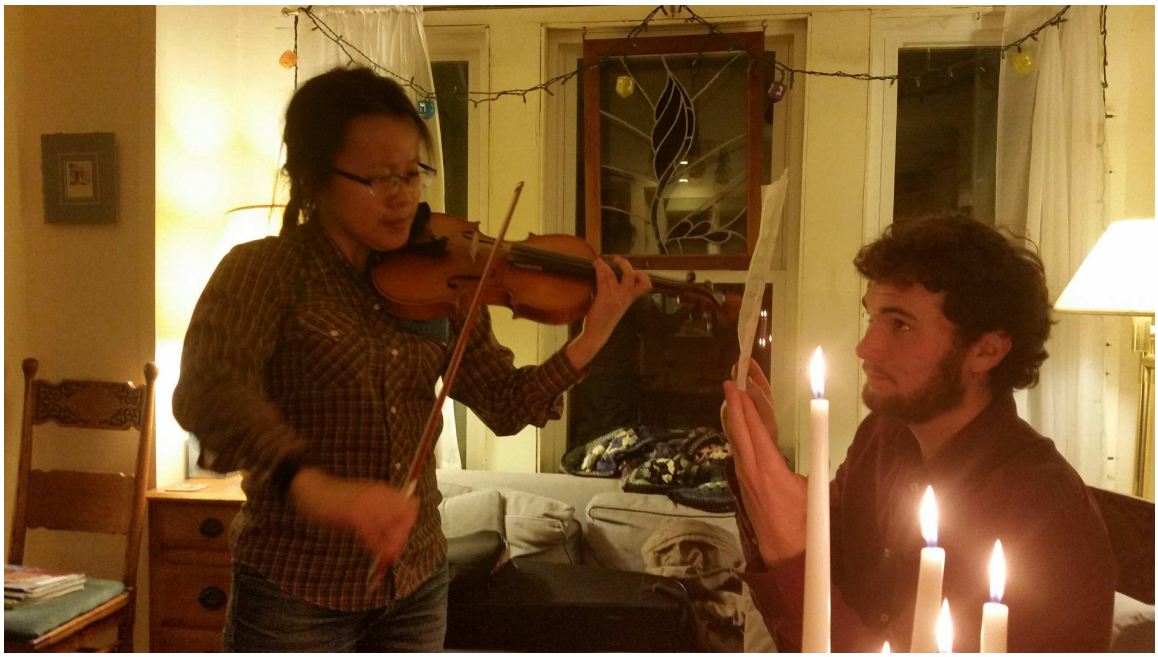
The FIS Story Corner is a chance to share pictures and stories within the FIS Community. If you have pictures or a story you would like to share, please send us an e-mail.

Here are some recent host program adventures…

**Mike and Julian Roy enjoyed a hike up Snake Mountain with their students Mohammed Talib '19 (second from right) and Alfredo Torres '19(far right). Looks like the pups had a great time as well!**

**Gad Kibet '19 (far left) savoring the sunshine with his host siblings, Amanda (second from right) and Devon (far right) Kearns, plus their cousin Matthew and Peter (the furry one!)**

**Aly DeGraff (left) met up with the DeGraff family's former host student, Annabelle Fowler '13 in Boston.**



**Huirong Jia '18, student of Emily Joselson and Alan Hewat, entertains her host brother, Adam Joselson, during the winter holidays.**

**We also have these messages and news to share…**

**Kristen Mullins' host student, Pele Voncujovi '19, shared his experience with the spiritual practice of Voodoo in an Addison Independent article. Read about it here.**

**If you wonder just how special you are in the lives of your host students, we share these words written by the mom of an international student….**

***"Just waiting for my son to get back home this year for Xmas, nearly two years since I last hugged him. I want to THANK the Middlebury community, for all the opportunities he has had, the friendship, hundreds of smiles he has received to warm his days away from home, and my special recognition and appreciation for the wonderful host family program you have. It makes a big difference; host families are the kindest people, opening their homes to strangers, giving them a place at their table and a spot in their hearts, to all the Middlebury host families, my warmest wishes, love and eternal gratitude, you make a great difference… God bless you."***

**Host Pamela Berenbaum shared this about her student Ashley Leung '16…**

***"This year we've gotten to know our FIS student, Ashley Leung, much better. We still enjoy meals out, and Ashley and I finally made it to Vergennes Laundry together after talking about it for weeks and weeks. Ashley and I also continued to do handoffs of the electric mixer and the vanilla, which she borrowed to bake cookies for her sweetheart. Ashley went to Montreal for spring break and gave us great tips for our trip there in April. The kids and I got to meet her mother, and I got to meet her fiancé – it was wonderful to meet, in person, these people who are so important in her life. Can't believe she's about to graduate!"***

**ISSS Staff**
**Kathy Foley, Associate Dean and Director of ISSS**
**Joani Taylor, International Student and Scholar Advisor**
**Kas Singh, International Student and Scholar Advisor**
**Lauren Berlamino, SEVIS and International Services Specialist**
**Carolyn Dahm, Administrative Coordinator**

**Thank you for all that you do for our students.**
**We look forward to hearing about your summer adventures!**